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ABSTRACT

Developed to document the specifications for supplementary instruction in a skills-based vocabulary program, this report focuses on the study of synonyms as relating to the learning of specific words. One hundred twenty-nine general headwords and more than 1,500 synonyms for these headwords, specified for use in instruction in grades four through nine, are listed in the report. Based on grade level and frequency information about the synonyms, the headwords are tentatively organized into six levels for instruction. The procedures used to obtain the synonyms are outlined, and lists of critical attributes and definitions for selected synonyms are included. (Author/DF)

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SYNONYMS FOR VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUCTION

Bruce Cronnell

ABSTRACT

The study of synonyms is important for vocabulary development instruction. 129 headwords and over 1500 synonyms for these headwords have been specified for use in instruction in grades 4-9. The procedures used to obtain these synonyms are outlined, and lists of synonyms are appended.

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SYNONYMS FOR VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUCTION*

Bruce Cronnell

Inadequate vocabulary can be handicap to people when they listen, speak, read, and write. Listeners and readers cannot comprehend well if they do not have adequate vocabularies; speakers and writers cannot fully express their thoughts if they do not have adequate vocabularies. Instruction in vocabulary is important to success both in and out of school (Humes, 1976b).

In the design of vocabulary development instruction, several major areas have been specified (Humes, 1976a). Some of these areas relate to vocabulary skills; e.g., use of context, analysis of word structure, and understanding of figurative language. Other areas relate to the learning of specific words; one such area is the study of synonyms.

Synonyms are words that are similar in meaning; e.g., smile, grin, beam, smirk, and sneer are all synonyms indicating turned-up lips. Generally there is one basic word that covers all the rest (a "headword," e.g., smile), while the other words are more specific in their meanings (e.g., smirk indicating a smile that is self-satisfied or silly). Synonyms for a headword are more specific than the headword; not only are they more precise, but they also permit economy in speech and writing; e.g., smirk rather than smile in self-satisfied or silly way.

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*This is one of five papers documenting the specifications for vocabulary development instruction. The papers on vocabulary from context, alternative language, and word structure specify the requirements for a skills-based vocabulary program. The present paper and the paper on subject-area vocabulary specify the requirements for supplementary instruction.

The study of synonyms is an important part of vocabulary development. As originally specified by Humes (1976a), synonyms were part of an overall vocabulary development program. However, further analysis suggests that because of the number of words involved, the study of synonyms forms a separate supplementary strand of instruction, while the basic vocabulary instruction focuses on skills development rather than on the learning of specific words. This paper outlines the procedures used in specifying the synonyms useful for instruction in grades 4-9 and lists the synonyms specified.

Procedures

The first step in specifying synonyms for instruction was to list over 275 high-frequency words for which synonym instruction might be useful. Many of these words were listed for more than one part of speech and/or meaning, resulting in approximately 325 headwords.

Each headword was looked up in two sources of synonyms--Allen (1949) and Roget (1962)--and synonyms were listed for each. At this point, rare, archaic, obsolete, slang, highly technical, and highly literary synonyms were deleted. After the initial listing, headwords with no or few synonyms were deleted. From the remaining sets, the following types of words were also deleted:

1. Those for which the synonymity was obscure, vague, or tenuous.
2. Those that better belonged under other headwords.
3. Those with negative racial, sexual, or social connotations.

The remaining words were checked in Rhode and Cronnell (1977) for grade level and frequency; if not found in this source, they were checked in

Carroll, Davies, and Richman (1971). Those not found in either source were generally deleted as being too uncommon for the needs of students in grades 4-9.

The result of this work is a set of 129 headwords and over 1500 synonyms. The headwords are listed in Appendix A; the synonyms are listed in Appendix B. Based on the grade-level and frequency information about the synonyms, the headwords have been tentatively organized into six levels for instruction; see Appendix C.

Future Work

Although the word content for instruction has been specified, considerable work remains to prepare these words before instruction can be written. First, the definitions of the synonyms must be recorded from dictionaries in order to fully understand the variations in meaning that distinguish the words. Then each word is analyzed into its critical attributes (cf. Humes, 1977); charts, tables, and diagrams have been found to be useful in this analysis. Finally, definitions are prepared for each synonym, using language appropriate for students in grades 4-9 and emphasizing the critical attributes. During such processing, changes (e.g., additions, deletions) can be expected as the synonyms are further analyzed. Appendix D illustrates the results of this process for a few selected sets of synonyms.

The final step is the actual writing of instruction. Prototype exercises have been tried out in grades 4, 6, and 8, and were found to be successful in teaching students to increase their vocabularies (Cronnell and Humes, 1977). These prototypes, along with information obtained from the tryout, can serve as a basis for the development of comprehensive instruction in synonyms.

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APPENDIX A

HEADWORDS

agree (vb.)
angry (adj.)
answer (vb.)
argue (vb.)
ask (vb.)
bad (adj.)
beat (vb.)
big (adj.)
brave (adj.)
break (vb.)
busy (adj.)
careful (adj.)
carry (vb.)
catch (vb.)
change (vb.)
cold (adj.)
cook (vb.)
copy (vb.)
cry (vb.)
cut (vb.)
dark (adj.)
different (adj.)
difficult/hard (adj.)
dig (vb.)
draw (vb.)
eat/chew (vb.)
empty (adj.)
end (n.)
explain (vb.)
fair (adj.)
fall (vb.)
fast (adj.)
fear (n.)
fight (vb./n.)
fill (vb.)
fly (vb.)
follow (vb.)
force (vb.)
fresh (adj.)
funny (adj.)
get (vb.)
give/gift (vb./n.)
happy/glad (adj.)
help (vb.)
hide (vb.)
hit (vb.)
hold (vb.)
house (n.)
hurry (vb.)
hurt (vb./n.)
idea (n.)
important (adj.)
job (n.)
join (vb.)
keep (vb.)
kill (vb.)
kind (adj.)
kind (n.)
laugh/smile (vb.)
light (n.)
like (vb.)
look (vb.)
make (vb.)
mean (vb.)
mix (vb.)
name (vb.)
noise/make a noise (n./vb.)
often (adv)
old (adj.)
order (vb.)
part (n.)
pay (n.)
pick (vb.)
picture (n.)
piece (n.)

place (n.)

plan (vb.)

play (vb.)

pull (vb.)

push (vb.)

real/true (adj.)

rest (n.)

rich (adj.)

rough (adj.)

rule (vb.)

run (vb.)

sad (adj.)

say/tell (vb.)

scare (vb.)

shape (n.)

shout (vb.)

show (vb.)

sing (vb.)

sleep (vb.)

slow (adj.)

small/little (adj.)

smell (n.)

smooth (adj.)

soft (adj.)

sound/make a sound (n./vb.)

stay (vb.)

stop (vb.)

strange (adj.)

strong (adj.)

study (vb.)

switch (vb.)

talk/speak (vb.)

thin (adj.)

thing (n.)

think (vb.)

throw (vb.)

time (n.)

tip (vb.)

trip (n.)

try (vb.)

turn (vb.)

very (adv.)

walk (vb.)

want (vb.)

wash (vb.)

way (n.)

weak (adj.)

wet (adj.)

wild (adj.)

wind (n.)

wise (adj.)

wish (n.)

write (vb.)

wrong (adj.)

APPENDIX B

SYNONYMS

AGREE (vb.)

accede
accept
(be in) accord
acquiesce
assent
comply
concur
conform (with/to)
consent
subscribe (to)

ANGRY (adj.)

displeased
exasperated
incensed
indignant
infuriated
irate

ANSWER (vb.)

acknowledge
rejoin
reply
respond
retort

ARGUE (vb.)

bicker
contend
debate
differ
disagree
dispute
feud
quarrel
squabble
wrangle

ASK (vb.)

appeal
beg
beseech
demand
entreat
implore
inquire
interrogate
invite
petition
plead
pray
query
question
request
summon

BAD (adj.)

base
disagreeable
disgusting
distasteful
dreadful
evil
foul
horrid
inappropriate
inferior
invalid
loathsome
miserable
nasty
naughty
nauseating
offensive
repugnant
repulsive
revolting
shabby
sickening
sinful
sinister
terrible
unpleasant
vile
wicked

BEAT (vb.)

conquer
defeat
drub
overcome
overpower
surpass
triumph (over)
trounce
vanquish
whip

BIG (adj.)

bulky
enormous
gigantic
immense
massive
monstrous
ponderous
prodigious
stupendous
titanic
tremendous

BRAVE (adj.)

audacious
bold
courageous
daring
dauntless
fearless
hardy
heroic
intrepid
resolute
stalwart
unafraid
undaunted
valiant
valorous

BREAK (vb.)

burst
chip
crack
crash
crunch
crush
dash
explode
fragment
pulverize
rend
rupture
shatter
smash
snap

BUSY (adj.)

active
assiduous
diligent
employed
energetic
engaged
hard-working
industrious
occupied
working

CAREFUL (adj.)

alert
attentive
cautious
circumspect
conscientious
discreet
guarded
judicious
observant
painstaking
politic
prudent
vigilant
wary
watchful

CARRY (vb.)

bear
cart
convey
haul
transfer
transport

CATCH (vb.)

apprehend
arrest
capture
enmesh
ensnare
entrap
grab
hook
land
net
seize
snag
snare
snatch
trap

CHANGE (vb.)

alter
commute
convert
modify
mutate
transform
vary

COLD (adj.)

bitter
bleak
brisk
chilly
cool
crisp
freezing
frigid
frosty
frozen
icy
inclement
nippy
raw
severe
sharp
wintry

COOK (vb.)

bake
barbecue
boil
broil
brown
fry
grill
roast
saute
simmer
steam
stew

COPY (vb.)

ape
duplicate
echo
imitate
mimic
mock
reproduce
trace

CRY (vb.)

bawl
blubber
groan
howl
lament
moan
snivel
sob
wail
weep
whimper
whine

CUT (vb.)

carve
chop
cleave
dissect
gash
gouge
hack
hew
mince
mow
notch
saw
scarify
score
scratch
sever
shave
shear
shred
slash
slice
slit
snip
trim
truncate
whittle

DARK (adj.)

dim
dingy
dreary
gloomy
inky
murky
opaque
shadowy
shady
somber

DIFFERENT (adj.)

contrary
contrasting
contrastive
disparate
dissimilar
distinct
divergent
diverse
original
unique
unlike
variant
varied
various

DIFFICULT/HARD (adj.)

arduous
Herculean
laborious
rough
strenuous
toilsome
tough
troublesome

DIG (vb.)

burrow
excavate
gouge (out)
hollow
mine
quarry
scoop (out)
shovel
spade

DRAW (vb.)

delineate
depict
design
diagram
doodle
draft
paint
portray
sketch

EAT/CHEW (vb.)

breakfast
consume
devour
dine
feed
gnaw
gorge
gum
lunch
masticate
munch
nibble
partake (of)
ruminate
stuff (oneself)
sup
swallow

EMPTY (adj.)

bare
barren
blank
clear
hollow
open
unclogged
unobstructed
vacant

END (n.)

close
completion
conclusion
ending
expiration
extremity
finish
last
limit
terminal
termination
tip

EXPLAIN (vb.)

clarify
define
describe
detail
elucidate
explicate
expound
interpret

FAIR (adj.)

balanced
disinterested
dispassionate
equitable
honest
impartial
just
unbiased

FALL (vb.)

descend
dive
drip
drop
lurch
pitch
plummet
plunge
sprawl
stumble

FAST (adj.)

abrupt
hasty
hurried
momentary
quick
rapid
rash
speedy
swift

FEAR (n.)

alarm
apprehension
dread
fright
horror
panic
phobia
terror
trepidation

FIGHT (vb./n.)

assail/----
assault/assault
attack/attack
battle/battle
box/boxing
brawl/brawl
challenge/challenge
clash/clash
combat/combat
contest/contest
duel/duel
encounter/encounter
joust/joust
scuffle/scuffle
spar/----
strive/strife
struggle/struggle
tussle/tussle
vie/----
war/war
wrestle/wrestling

FILL (vb.)

block
choke
clog
congest
cram
crowd
glut
imbue
obstruct
pack
permeate
pervade
plug
saturate
stop
stuff

FLY (vb.)

coast
cruise
flit
flitter
float
flutter
glide
hover
sail
skim
soar
swoop
wing

FOLLOW (vb.)

chase
ensue
heel
pursue
shadow
succeed
trail

FORCE (vb.)

coerce
compel
constrain
impel
inject
make
necessitate
oblige
repel
require
squeeze

FRESH (adj.)

crisp
disrespectful
impertinent
impudent
pert
pure
recent
refreshing
rude
saucy
unexhausted
unfaded
unused

FUNNY (adj.)

amusing
comic
comical
droll
facetious
humorous
jesting
jocose
jocular
laughable
ludicrous
ridiculous
whimsical
witty

GET (vb.)

acquire
fetch
gain
obtain
procure
retrieve
secure

GIVE/GIFT (vb./n.)

allot/allotment
-----/alms
award/award
bequeath/bequest
bestow/-----
-----/bonus
bribe/bribe
confer/-----
contribute/contribution
distribute/-----
dole/dole
donate/donation
-----/favor
grant/grant
-----/gratuity
-----/honorarium
lend/loan
offer/offering
-----/premium
present/present
-----/prize
render/-----
tender/-----
tip/tip

HAPPY/GLAD (adj.)

blissful
blithe
cheerful
cheery
content
genial
joyful
joyous
pleasant

HELP (vb.)

abet
aid
assist
avail
befriend
benefit
favor
relieve
serve
succor
support
sustain

HIDE (vb.)

bury
camouflage
cloak
conceal
cover
disguise
mask
obscure
screen
veil

HIT (vb.)

bang
bat
batter
buffet
bump (into)
churn
clash
collide
crash (into)
drub
hammer
jab
knock
poke
pound
prod
pummel
punch
ram
rap
slug
smack
sock
strike
swat
thrash
thump
thwack
whack
whip

HOLD (vb.)

clasp
clench
cling (to)
clutch
embrace
grasp
grip
hug

HOUSE (n.)

bungalow
cabin
castle
chateau
cottage
domicile
dwelling
habitation
home
hovel
hut
mansion
palace
residence
shack
shanty
villa

HURRY (vb.)

bustle
hasten
hustle
quicken
rush
scramble
scurry

HURT (vb./n.)

ache/ache
afflict/affliction
-----/agony
-----/anguish
-----/discomfort
distress/distress
harm/harm
inflame/inflamation
injure/injury
irritate/irritation
pain/pain
-----/pang
smart/-----
sting/sting
suffer/suffering
torment/torment
torture/torture
-----/twinge
wound/wound

IDEA (n.)

conceit
concept
conception
fancy
impression
notion
opinion
percept
perception
theory
thought
whim

IMPORTANT (adj.)

consequential
considerable
distinguished
eminent
great
momentous
notable
outstanding
prominent
significant
substantial

JOB (n.)

assignment
business
calling
career
chore
duty
employment
occupation
office
position
post
profession
pursuit
stint
task
vocation

JOIN (vb.)

affiliate
associate
attach
band
connect
consolidate
couple
leash
link
meet
splice
unite
yoke

KEEP (vb.)

conserve
maintain
preserve
retain
save
sustain

KILL (vb.)

assassinate
behead
butcher
choke
crucify
decapitate
decimate
drown
electrocute
execute
exterminate
guillotine
hang
lynch
massacre
murder
slaughter
slay
smother
stone
strangle
suffocate

KIND (adj.)

accomodating
amiable
benevolent
benign
compassionate
considerate
gracious
humane
sympathetic
tender
thoughtful
warmhearted

KIND (n.)

class
denomination
genre
genus
ilk
sort
species
type
variety

LAUGH/SMILE (vb.)

beam
cackle
chortle
chuckle
giggle
grin
guffaw
smirk
sneer
snicker
snigger
snort
titter

LIGHT (n.)

beacon
blaze
candle
chandelier
flame
flare
flash
gleam
glimmer
glint
illumination
lamp
lantern
radiance
ray
taper
torch

LIKE (vb.)

admire
adore
appreciate
approve
cherish
enjoy
fancy
(be) fond (of)
idolize
love
regard
relish
savor
worship

LOOK (vb.)

discern
gape
gawk
gaze
glance
glare
glimpse
observe
peek
peep
peer
squint
stare
watch

MAKE (vb.)

build
construct
create
erect
fabricate
fashion
forge
form
manufacture
model
mold
produce

MEAN (vb.)

connote
convey
denote
imply
indicate
signify
suggest
symoblize

MIX (vb.)

amalgamate
blend
coalesce
combine
fuse
intermingle
jumble
merge
mingle
scramble
shuffle

NAME (vb.)

call
characterize
designate
dub
label
nickname
style
tag
term
title

NOISE/MAKE A NOISE (n./vb.)

bang
blare
blast
boom
chime
chink
clang
clank
clap
clatter
click
clink
clunk
crack
crackle
creak
crunch
drone
jingle
snap
splash
squeak
swish
thud
thunder
tick

OFTEN (adv.)

commonly
frequently
ordinarily
repeatedly
usually

OLD (adj.)

adult
aged
ancient
antedeluvian
antiquated
antique
archaic
elderly
extinct
mature
obsolete
passé
prehistoric
senile
stale
venerable

ORDER (vb.)

charge
command
decree
dictate
direct
enjoin
insist
instruct
ordain

PART (n.)

component
fraction
fragment
member
portion
section
segment
subdivision

PAY (n.)

commission
compensation
earnings
income
payment
remuneration
reward
salary
stipend
wage

PICK (vb.)

appoint
choose
decide
designate
elect
favor
nominate
opt
prefer
select
vote

PICTURE (n.)

caricature
cartoon
drawing
engraving
etching
icon
illustration
image
landscape
likeness
miniature
oil
painting
pastel
photo
photograph
portrait
print
representation
reproduction
seascape
sketch
snapshot
tableau
watercolor

PIECE (n.)

bit
bite
chunk
crumb
cutting
lump
particle
scrap
shred
slice
splinter
tatter

PLACE (n.)

area
country
district
locale
locality
location
neighborhood
position
region
section
site
spot
territory
zone

PLAN (vb.)

aim
connive
conspire
contrive
design
devise
intend
mean
plot
propose
scheme

PLAY (vb.)

caper
cavort
frisk
frolic
gambol
rollick
romp

PULL (vb.)

drag
draw
haul
jerk
jiggle
lug
tow
tug
wrench
yank

PUSH (vb.)

butt
elbow
jostle
nudge
press
propel
shoulder
shove
thrust

REAL/TRUE (adj.)

actual
authentic
bona fide
certain
concrete
factual
genuine
natural
tangible
veritable

REST (n.)

break
intermission
pause
quiet
recess
relief
repose
respite

RICH (adj.)

affluent
comfortable
moneyed
prosperous
wealthy
well-to-do

ROUGH (adj.)

bumpy
choppy
coarse
harsh
jagged
ragged
rugged
turbulent
uneven

RULE (vb.)

control
dominate
govern
head
lead
reign

RUN (vb.)

bolt
bound
dart
dash
fly
race
scamper
scoot
speed
sprint
tear
zip

SAD (adj.)

dejected
depressed
disconsolate
discouraged
disheartened
dismal
dispirited
doleful
downcast
downhearted
grieved
heartsick
heavyhearted
inconsolable
melancholy
miserable
mournful
pathetic
plaintive
sorrowful
unhappy
woeful
wretched

SAY/TELL (vb.)

articulate
assert
blab
blurt (out)
cite
comment
communicate
declare
dictate
discuss
exclaim
express
mention
narrate
observe
recite
recount
relate
remark
report
state
utter
voice

SCARE (vb.)

alarm
frighten
horrify
startle
terrify
terrorize

SHAPE (n.)

configuration
contour
figure
form
formation
outline
structure

SHOUT (vb.)

bellow
blare
clamor
hoop
hoot
howl
roar
scream
screech
shriek
whoop
yell

SHOW (vb.)

bare
demonstrate
disclose
display
exhibit
expose
flaunt
manifest
parade
reveal
uncover

SING (vb.)

chant
chirp
croon
hum
intone
serenade
twitter
vocalize
warble
yodel

SLEEP (vb.)

doze
drowse
hibernate
nap
rest
slumber
snooze

SLOW (adj.)

deliberate
gradual
leisurely
poky
sluggish

SMALL/LITTLE (adj.)

diminutive
dwarf
lilliputian
microscopic
miniature
minute
stunted
tiny
undersized
wee

SMELL (n.)

aroma
bouquet
essence
fragrance
fume
incense
odor
perfume
scent
stench
stink

SMOOTH (adj.)

even
flat
glossy
level
plane
sleek
slick
unbroken

SOFT (adj.)

crumbly
delicate
downy
flabby
flexible
fluffy
limp
malleable
pithy
yielding

SOUND/MAKE A SOUND (n./vb.)

bark
bay
bleat
bray
buzz
gasp
growl
grunt
pant
sigh
snarl
snort
squeal
whinny
whistle
yap
yelp
yowl

STAY (vb.)

linger
loiter
remain
tarry
wait

STOP (vb.)

block
cease
desist
discontinue
end
halt
interrupt
quit
stall
suspend

STRANGE (adj.)

absurb
bizarre
curious
eccentric
grotesque
odd
outlandish
peculiar
queer
singular
unusual
weird

STRONG (adj.)

athletic
brawny
forceful
hale
hardy
hearty
mighty
muscular
omnipotent
potent
powerful
rugged
stalwart
stout
sturdy
vigorous

STUDY (vb.)

consider
contemplate
examine
inspect
peruse
ponder
reflect
review
scrutinize

SWITCH (vb.)

barter
exchange
interchange
replace
substitute
swap
trade

TALK/SPEAK (vb.)

address
babble
chat
chatter
confer
converse
deliberate
discourse
drawl
gab
gossip
jabber
lisp
mumble
murmur
mutter
prattle
reason
whisper

THIN (adj.)

bony
fine
gaunt
lean
lithe
scrawny
skinny
slender
slight
slim
spare

THING (n.)

act
action
affair
apparatus
appliance
arrangement
article
business
deed
device
enterprise
entity
exploit
feat
goods
implement
instrument
item
matter
object
performance
stunt
tool
utensil

THINK (vb.)

assume
believe
conclude
deduce
deem
guess
imagine
infer
judge
presume
reason
regard
suppose
surmise
suspect

THROW (vb.)

cast
chuck
fling
flip
heave
hurl
hurtle
launch
pass
pelt
pitch
sling
toss

TIME (n.)

age
century
chronology
decade
duration
eon
epoch
era
eternity
generation
interval
millenium
moment
period
spell
term

TIP (vb.)

capsize
lean
list
overturn
slant
slope
tilt

TRIP (n.)

cruise
excursion
expedition
jaunt
journey
outing
pilgrimage
safari
tour
trek
voyage

TRY (vb.)

attempt
endeavor
essay
strive
struggle
undertake

TURN (vb.)

bend
curve
deviate
diverge
pivot
revolve
rotate
shift
spin
swerve
swivel
twirl
twist
veer

VERY (adv.)

enormously
exceedingly
excessively
extremely
hugely
intensely
notably
quite
strikingly
vastly

WALK (vb.)

hike
limp
march
parade
plod
promenade
ramble
saunter
shuffle
skip
stagger
stroll
swagger
tiptoe
toddle
tramp
tread
trudge

WANT (vb.)

aspire
covet
crave
desire
hope
long
lust
wish
yearn

WASH (vb.)

bathe
flush
launder
mop
rinse
scour
scrub
shampoo
swab

WAY (n.)

custom
fashion
manner
means
method
mode
practice
procedure
process
style

WEAK (adj.)

dainty
debilitated
decrepit
delicate
enervated
feeble
frail
impotent
powerless

WET (adj.)

damp
dank
drenched
humid
moist
muggy
saturated
soaked
soaking
sodden
soggy
sopping

WILD (adj.)

barbarous
bestial
brutal
ferocious
fierce
savage
uncivilized
untamed
vicious

WIND (n.)

blast
blizzard
breath
breeze
cyclone
draft
flurry
gale
gust
hurricane
monsoon
puff
squall
tempest
tornado
typhoon

WISE (adj.)

astute
erudite
intelligent
knowing
learned
profound
sagacious
sage

WISH (n.)

ambition
avarice
covetousness
craving
desire
hope
longing
urge
want
yearning

WRITE (vb.)

compose
inscribe
pen
pencil
record
revise
scrawl
scribble
transcribe
versify

WRONG (adj.)

erroneous
fallacious
false
faulty
improper
inaccurate
incorrect
untrue

APPENDIX C

SYNONYMS ORGANIZED BY LEVELS

Level A		Level B		Level C		Level D		Level E		Level F	
Word	Frequency	Word	Frequency	Word	Frequency	Word	Frequency	Word	Frequency	Word	Frequency
carry	6	break	15	bad	28	answer	5	beat	10	agree	10
cook	12	busy	10	cut	26	ask	16	careful	15	angry	6
copy	8	catch	15	dark	10	big	11	happy/glad	9	argue	10
eat/chew	17	cold	17	dig	9	brave	15	idea	12	difficult/ hard	8
fall	10	cry	12	fair	8	change	7	important	11	draw	9
hurry	7	empty	9	fear	9	different	14	kind (adj.)	12	explain	8
join	13	fast	9	fight	24	end	12	laugh/smile	13	fill	16
light	17	fly	13	give/gift	30	force	11	mean	8	funny	14
noise/make a noise	26	follow	7	job	16	fresh	13	name	10	kill	22
piece	12	get	7	look	14	help	12	part	8	kind (n.)	9
pull	10	hit	30	rest	8	hide	10	real/true	10	old	16
push	9	hold	8	sound/make a sound	18	house	17	sad	23	picture	25
run	12	hurt	24	switch	7	keep	6	say/tell	23	play	7
shout	12	like	14	thing	24	make	12	slow	5	rich	6
stop	10	pick	11	walk	18	mix	11	stay	5	sing	10
thin	11	place	14	way	10	often	5	study	9	soft	10
throw	13	rough	9			order	9	talk/speak	19	strong	16
tip	7	rule	6	Total	259	pay	10	time	15	think	15
wash	9	shape	7			plan	11	trip	11	turn	14
wind	16	sleep	7			scare	6	very	10	want	9
		smooth	8			show	11	wet	12	weak	9
Total	237	Total	252			small/ little	10	wild	9	wise	8
						smell	11	wrong	8	wish	10
						strange	12			write	10
						try	6	Total	268		
						Total	263			Total	277

APPENDIX D

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES AND DEFINITIONS
FOR SELECTED SYNONYMS

BIG (adj.)

	Word	Critical Attributes	Definition
	BIG	large in size or number	large in size or number
A.	immense	1. much bigger than ordinary	much bigger than ordinary
	enormous	1. unusually big 2. hard to believe	so unusually big as to be hard to believe
	gigantic	1. big 2. like a giant	so big as to look like a giant
	titanic	1. very big 2. powerful	very big and powerful
B.	bulky	1. big in size compared to weight	big in size compared to weight
	massive	1. big 2. solid 3. heavy	big, solid, and heavy
	onderous	1. big 2. heavy 3. doesn't move easily or well	so big and heavy as to be not able to move easily or well
C.	prodigious	1. very big 2. wonderful	so very big as to seem wonderful
	stupendous	1. very big 2. great surprise or not believing	so very big as to cause great surprise or not believing
	tremendous	1. very big 2. great fear or wonder	so very big as to cause great fear or wonder
	monstrous	1. very big 2. strange 3. ugly	very big, strange, and ugly (like a monster)

COOK (vb.)

	Word	Critical Attributes	Definition
	COOK	1. to prepare food 2. using heat	to prepare food by using heat
A.		1. to cook 2. in an oven	
	bake	3. meat, vegetables, fruit, bread, cake 4. little or no water	to cook meat, vegetables, fruit, bread, or cake in an oven with little or no water
	roast	3. large piece of meat 4. little or no water	to cook a large piece of meat in an oven with little or no water
	barbeque[1]	3. meat or fish 4. special liquid with spice	1. to cook meat or fish covered with special liquid and spices in an oven
B.		1. to cook 2. using liquid	
	boil	2. in liquid 3. bubbles and becomes steam	to cook in a liquid that is so hot that it bubbles and becomes steam
	steam	2. over boiling water 3. in a covered pot 4. food does not touch water	to cook food over boiling water in a covered pot without letting the food touch the water
	simmer	2. in liquid 3. slowly 4. low heat 5. few bubbles	to cook slowly in a liquid over low heat so that the liquid makes few bubbles
	stew	1. to simmer 2. long time	to simmer for a long time (used of meat or fish and vegetables)

COOK (continued)

C.	1. to cook 2. generally in a pan 3. generally on a range		
brown	2. food 3. brown		to cook food only long enough to make it brown
saute	1. to cook or brown 2. pan 3. quickly 4. small quantity fat		to cook or brown food quickly in a pan in a small amount of fat
fry	2. hot fat 3. high heat		to cook in hot fat over high heat
D.	1. to cook 2. direct heat		
broil	3. over or under high heat		to cook directly over or under high heat
grill	2. very hot 3. flat surface		to cook on a very hot, flat surface
barbeque[2]	1. to broil or roast 2. whole or large pieces 3. open fire 4. spit or metal frame	2.	to broil or roast whole or large pieces of food by an open fire on a spit or metal frame

FAST (adj.)

	Word	Critical Attributes	Definition
	FAST	1. moving or able to move, do something, or make something happen 2. high speed	moving or able to move, do something, or make something happen at high speed
A.	quick	1. done with speed 2. short time	done fast in a short time
	rapid	1. moving very fast	moving very fast
	swift	1. moving very fast 2. easily	moving very fast and easily
	speedy	1. being fast 2. short time 3. without waiting	being fast in order to be done in a short time without waiting
B.	hasty	1. done or made fast or quickly 2. without care	done or made fast or quickly and without care
	hurried	1. moving or working fast 2. forced or needed	moving or working fast because forced to or needed to
	rash	1. too fast 2. no care 3. dangerous	being too fast with no care and being dangerous
C.	abrupt	1. coming or happening suddenly 2. without warning	coming or happening suddenly and without warning
	momentary	1. lasting only a moment	lasting only a moment

FEAR (n.)

Word	Critical Attributes	Definition
FEAR	1. a feeling 2. bad 3. caused by danger	a bad feeling because of danger
A.	1. a fear 2. sudden 3. great	a sudden great fear
alarm	4. at first sign of danger	a sudden great fear at the first sign of danger
fright	4. usually short	a sudden great fear, usually lasting only a short time
horror	4. of something that is terrible or awful	a sudden great fear of something that is terrible or awful
panic	4. usually without enough reason 5. usually causing foolish actions	a sudden great fear, usually without enough reason and usually causing foolish actions
terror	3. very great	a sudden very great fear

FEAR (continued)

B.	1. a fear 2. lasting a long time 3. not great	a fear that is not great, but lasts a long time
apprehension	4. usually of something that may happen later	a fear that is not great, but lasts a long time, usually of something that may happen later
trepidation	4. causing a little shaking	a little fear, lasting a long time, causing a person to shake a little
C. 1. dread	1. a fear 2. lasting a very long time 3. great 4. unwillingness to face person or condition 5. of something that must be faced	a great fear, lasting a very long time, of something or someone that a person is unwilling to face, but must be faced
2. phobia	1. a fear 2. lasting a very long time 3. great 4. not reasonable 5. of one special thing	a great fear, lasting a very long time. It is not reasonable. It is a fear of one special thing.

GET (vb.)

	Word	Critical Attributes	Definition
	GET	1. to come to have as one's own	to come to have as one's own
A.	obtain	1. to get 2. by planning 3. by work	to get as a result of planning and work
	gain	4. something of value	to get something of value as a result of planning and work
	procure	2. much trying	to get as a result of much trying
	acquire	2. in addition to what one already has	to get in addition to what one already has
	secure	2. work hard to keep	to get and work hard to keep
B.	fetch	1. to get 2. go after and bring back	to get by going after and bringing back
	retrieve	1. to get what one had before	to get what one had before

JOB (n.)

	Word	Critical Attributes	Definition
	JOB[1]	1. work 2. done for a long time 3. pay	work that is done for a long time for pay
A.	employment	1. a job 2. fills time 3. earn a living	a job that fills one's time and that is done to earn a living
	occupation	2. result of training	a job that one does after having trained to do it
	profession	2. special information 3. much education	a job that uses special information and needs much education
	career	2. earn a living 3. most of one's life	a job that is done to earn a living for most of one's life
	pursuit	2. steady interest	a job that is done with steady interest
	business	2. involving money and trade	a job in which one deals with money and trading (not a job where one makes something)
	calling/ vocation	2. strong feeling or wanting	a job that one has a strong feeling for or strongly wants to do
B.	post	1. a job 2. given to do	a job that one is given to do
	position	2. level	a job at a certain level in a place of work
	office	2. tell people what to do 3. decide what to do	a job with the right to tell people what to do and to decide what to do

JOB (continued)

	JOB[2]	1. work 2. needs to be done	work that needs to be done
A.	task	1. a job 2. told to do	a job that one is told to do
	chore	2. repeated 3. from time to time	a job that is repeated from time to time (to keep a home, farm or business going)
	duty	2. must be done	a job that one must do
	stint	2. given amount of work or time	a job that has a given amount of work or time to do it in
	assignment	1. special job 2. certain amount of work 3. told to do by boss	special job that has a certain amount of work that a boss tells one to do

LAUGH/SMILE (vb.)

	Word	Critical Attributes	Definition
	LAUGH	1. to show happiness or to make fun of someone 2. smile and "ha ha" sound	to show happiness or to make fun of someone by smiling and making a "ha ha" sound
A.	chuckle	1. to laugh 2. in the throat 3. softly 4. to oneself	to laugh in the throat softly or to oneself
	snort	1. to laugh 2. through the nose loudly 3. rough 4. making fun of someone	to laugh through the nose loudly with a rough sound, often making fun of someone
	chortle	1. to laugh 2. for happiness 3. in the throat like a chuckle but nearly as loud as a snort	to laugh for happiness with a sound in the throat like a chuckle but nearly as loud as a snort; a cross between chuckle and snort
B.	snicker/ snigger	1. to laugh 2. quietly 3. while trying to hide or stop the laugh 4. making fun of someone	to laugh quietly while trying to hide or stop the laugh, often making fun of someone
	giggle	1. to laugh 2. high sound 3. silly way 4. as if it is hard to stop	to laugh with a high sound, in a silly way, as if it is hard to stop
	titter	1. to giggle 2. controlled 3. nervous 4. high pitched sounds	to giggle in a controlled way, as if nervous, making high pitched sounds

LAUGH/SMILE (continued)

cackle	1. to laugh 2. sharp, broken noise 3. high pitch 4. like the noise a hen makes	to laugh with a sharp broken noise and a high sound like the noise a hen makes
guffaw	1. to laugh 2. loudly 3. briefly 4. rough, deep	to laugh loudly and briefly with a rough deep sound

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SMILE	1. to curve the mouth up	to curve the mouth up
beam	1. to smile 2. with joy	to smile with joy
grin	2. broadly [Note: Likely to involve showing the teeth.]	to smile broadly
smirk	2. in a silly or self-satisfied way	to smile in a silly or self-satisfied way
sneer	2. showing dislike	to smile showing dislike

LOOK (vb.)

Word	Critical Attributes	Definition
LOOK	1. to see 2. to move the eyes	to move or use the eyes in order to see
A. glance/glimpse	1. to look 2. quickly	to look quickly
B.	1. to look 2. for a while	to look for a while
gaze	3. steadily 4. with interest <u>or</u> at nothing special	to look steadily for a while with interest <u>or</u> at nothing special
stare	3. with widely opened eyes 4. because one is curious about or does not believe what one sees	to look for a while with widely opened eyes because one is curious about or does not believe what one sees
gape	1. to stare 2. with mouth open	to stare with the mouth open
gawk	1. to stare or gape 2. stupidly	to stare or gape stupidly
glare	1. to stare 2. angrily or fiercely	to stare angrily or fiercely

LOOK (continued)

C.	1. to look 2. with some difficulty	to look with some difficulty
squint	2. with eyes partly closed [Note: Usually requires tenseness, tightness of muscles.]	to look with eyes partly closed
peer	2. closely 3. at something that is hard to see	to look closely at something that is hard to see
peek/peep	2. so no one can see 3. often through a small opening or from hiding	to look so no one can see, often through a small opening or from hiding
D.	1. to look 2. with careful attention	to look with careful attention
watch	3. very closely 4. for a period of time	to look very closely with careful attention for a period of time
observe	3. to study	to look with careful attention in order to study
discern	3. to find out	to look with careful attention in order to find out

SMALL/LITTLE (adj.)

	Word	Critical Attributes	Definition
	SMALL/ LITTLE	1. not big in size, distance, value, or number	not big in size, distance, value, or number
A.	minute	1. very small	very small
	diminutive	1. very small 2. formal	formal word for very small
	tiny	1. very small 2. informal	informal word for very small
	we	1. very small 2. dialect	dialect word for very small
	microscopic	1. very small 2. can't be seen without a microscope	so small that you cannot see it clearly without a microscope
B.	undersized	1. smaller than expected size	smaller than expected in size for a thing of its kind
	dwarf	1. an animal or plant 2. much smaller than ordinary size	an animal or plant much smaller than ordinary size for a thing of its kind
	stunted	1. stopped from growing to usual size	stopped from growing to usual size for a thing of its kind
C.	miniature	1. smaller in size than thing itself 2. said of model or picture	(said of a model or picture) smaller in size than the thing itself
	lilliputian	1. miniature	miniature; word made from the name of tiny people who lived on the island of Lilliput, the name of a place in a story